United Nations A/C.1/56/L.54

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 October 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
First Committee
Agenda item 74
General and complete disarmament

United Nations conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.16

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.16, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to convene a United Nations conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament not later than 2006, in New York, as a follow-up to the resolve expressed by heads of State and Government in the Millennium Declaration;

(b) Also decide to establish a preparatory committee, open to participation by all States, which would hold no fewer than three sessions, the first session to be held in New York not later than July 2003, the dates of which would be decided at its fifty-seventh session;

(c) Request the preparatory committee to recommend the dates for the holding of the conference at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

(d) Also request the preparatory committee to make recommendations to the conference on all relevant matters, including a draft agenda, draft rules of procedure and draft final documents and to decide on background documents to be made available in advance;

(e) Request the Secretary-General to render to the preparatory committee and the conference all necessary assistance, including the provision of background information, relevant documents and summary records.

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B. Relationship of the requests to the programme of work

2. The activities referred to above would fall under programme 2, Disarmament, and programme 6, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.[1]

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, pursuant to operative paragraph 7, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would serve as the substantive secretariat for the preparatory committee. In accordance with operative paragraph 6, the Department would assist in the preparation of the draft agenda, draft rules of procedure and draft final documents. The Department would also facilitate the provision of background documents to be made available in advance of the sessions of the preparatory committee.

4. Pursuant to operative paragraph 7, the Department would be responsible for rendering to the preparatory committee all necessary assistance, including the provision of background information and relevant documents.

D. Modification required in the programme of work for 2002-2003

5. No provision has been made in under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003[2] for the convening of the first session of the preparatory committee in 2003. Consequently, provisions for the related requirements would have to be made under section 4. The extent to which the Organization's capacity to provide conference servicing would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

1. Conference-servicing requirements

6. With regard to the activity referred to in operative paragraph 3, it is not possible at the current stage to estimate the requirements for the convening of a United Nations conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament not later than 2006. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution and a mandate be given for the convening of such a conference, the related resource requirements would have to be reflected in the context of the budget outline and the proposed programme budget for the relevant biennium.

7. With respect to the request contained in operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, the first session of the preparatory committee will be convened in New York.

8. It is envisaged that the meeting servicing costs, amounting to $230,800 at full cost, would be incurred with respect to the following: meeting servicing and simultaneous interpretation for 10 meetings (two meetings per day over a period of

five days); 50 pages of pre-session documentation, 50 pages of in-session documentation and 30 pages of post-session documentation in all six official languages of the United Nations; and miscellaneous requirements (see annex to the present statement). The cost of provision of summary records in the six official languages of the United Nations is estimated at $97,100. However, attention is drawn to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 37/14 C of 16 November 1982, in which the General Assembly confirmed that summary records should not be provided to special conferences and their preparatory organs, with the exception of legal codification conferences, for which the needs would be determined in each case.

2. Non-conference-servicing requirements

Temporary assistance

9. Temporary assistance equivalent to 3 work-months of General Service (Other level) staff would be required for the planning, organization and convening of the first session of the preparatory committee.

10. The requirements for temporary assistance are estimated at $15,400 net.

Consultants

11. The equivalent of 1 work-month of consultancy services would be needed to provide expertise in addressing issues to be considered by the preparatory committee. The related costs are estimated at $10,500, including travel and daily subsistence allowance.

F. Potential for absorption

12. The conference-servicing requirements, exclusive of summary records, of the first session of the preparatory committee are estimated at $230,800 at full cost. Requirements for the provision of summary records are estimated at $97,100. As stated above, the extent to which the Organization's capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003.

13. Provision is made under the relevant section for conference services of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation, but also for meetings authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings are consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years. Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.16, no additional appropriation would be required under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

14. No provision has been made under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 for the convening of the first session of the preparatory committee in 2003. Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, additional requirements amounting to $25,900 would have to be included under section 4.

G. Contingency fund

15. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 and, in effect, starting with the biennium 1990-1991, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of its current session.

H. Summary

16. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.16, it is estimated that an additional appropriation of $25,900 would be required under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003. In addition, an amount of $3,200 would be required under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, for the additional staff for the Department for Disarmament Affairs. No additional appropriation would be required under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/55/6/Rev.1).

[2] A/56/6 (Sect. 4).

Annex

Estimates on a full-cost basis of conference-servicing and non-conference-servicing costs of the first session of the preparatory committee for the conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of disarmament

(United States dollars)

1.	Conference-servicing costs[a]	
	Meeting servicing and interpretation	65 400
	Pre-session documentation	61 300
	In-session documentation	60 100
	Post-session documentation	36 200
	Other requirements	7 800
	Total, 1	**230 800**
2.	Non-conference-servicing costs	
	Temporary assistance (3 work-months at GS (OL))	15 400
	Consultants	10 500
	Total, 2	**25 900**
	Grand total (1 + 2)	**256 700**

[a] Excluding $97,100 that would be required should the General Assembly decide on the provision of summary records.